

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/799,723

Examiner

Dirk Wright

Applicant(s)

FETT, GREGORY ALLEN

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to _____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-9.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 15 March 2004 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 08112004
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date 07302005
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☐ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

Examiner's Amendment

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it ***must*** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

George Ayvazov gave approval of this amendment in a telephone interview on June 30, 2005.

The application has been amended as follows:

In claim 1, at the end of line 20, after "vaness", the following was inserted: ", and wherein said fluid is forced from the set of vanes exhibiting a higher speed to the set of vanes with a lower speed."

Claims Allowed

Claims 1-9 are allowable over the prior art of record. The claims are allowable because the prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious the claimed combination of: a differential assembly having a limited slip differential capability, said differential comprising: a differential casing; a pair of side gears oppositely situated in and rotatably supported by said differential casing; a pinion shaft arranged at right angle to the axis of the side gears and fixed to the differential casing at both ends thereof; a plurality of pinions rotatably mounted on the pinion shaft and adapted to mesh with the side gears; and a fluid coupling disposed between one of said side gears and said differential casing, wherein said fluid coupling comprising: a first impeller provided with a first set of vanes and operably connected to one of said side gears; a second impeller provided with a second set of vanes and operably connected to said differential casing

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so that said first set of vanes is facing said second set of vanes; and a viscous fluid disposed between said first set of vanes and said second set of vanes, and wherein said fluid is forced from the set of vanes exhibiting a higher speed to the set of vanes with a lower speed.

No particular single feature of the claim renders the claim as a whole patentable. Only the claim taken as a whole combination is deemed new and unobvious.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Prior Art Discussed

The examiner has considered the references cited by applicant in his Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently with the application. None of the references show all of the features of the invention. In particular, what is not shown is a kind of fluid coupling, typically called a hydrodynamic, or hydrokinetic, fluid coupling between a side gear and a differential housing. The viscous couplings shown was not deemed equivalent to the fluid coupling claimed because they operate on different principles.

The references cited by the examiner are deemed pertinent to applicant's disclosure, yet none of them show a hydrodynamic coupling between a side gear and a differential housing.

Conclusion

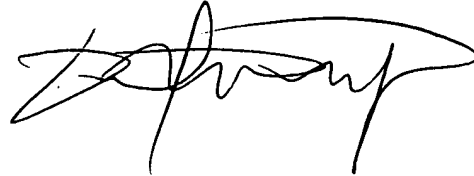
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Dirk Wright whose telephone number is 571-272-7098. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday, 8AM-4:30PM.

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If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Dirk Wright
Primary Examiner
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A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Dirk Wright', with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

DW
Sunday, July 03, 2005